From: Carol Agate
To: Simmons, Denise
Subject: Re: BDS resolution
Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:18:16 PM

Thanks for your prompt and informative reply.

Carol

On Apr 18, 2018, at 1:46 PM, Simmons, Denise <dsimmons@cambridgema.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Agate,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it. We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Carol Agate <carolagate@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 1:34 PM
To: City Council
Subject: BDS resolution

To the members of the Cambridge City Council:
This letter is a request that the Council members reject the BDS resolution being brought before you on April 23. Opposing this resolution is not a statement that you agree with everything Israel does. But supporting the resolution does say that you agree with the biased, exaggerated statements made by the BDS movement and will be interpreted as signing on to their campaign to challenge Israel's right to exist.
As so often happens with the BDS movement, they are trying to sneak this resolution through with a minimum of public awareness. But if the Council should pass it, an action by Cambridge against Israel will be widely publicized. The "facts" they present are exaggerations, and ignore the real fact that since Israel took steps to close their borders the frequent incidents of suicide bombers killing civilians in markets, buses, and schools have been stopped.
The BDS movement is cleverly bringing this resolution to a liberal city, knowing there are organizations that have so much concern for the plight of the Palestinians that their resolution may appeal to those who haven't studied both sides of the issue. They have switched from attempting a widespread boycott to focusing on one company. They know it is easier to appeal to liberals if they can ask that a corporation be boycotted rather than placing the blame directly on the world's only Jewish country.
Yes, Israel is flawed. But what country is perfect? The settlements are wrong, and should be stopped. But this resolution will do nothing to encourage Israel to end them. The only feasible solution to the dilemma in the Middle East is to create two separate states. Boycotting companies for their presence in Israel is not the way to

accomplish that.

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